

Regulation of medical physicists
(HB 1967 by Wright/Brooks)

DIGEST: HB 1967 would have created a new state agency, the Texas Board of Licensure for Professional Medical Physicists, for the regulation of medical physicists. The board would have been composed of nine members appointed by the governor and would have overseen the licensing process for medical physicists, including testing, renewal and revocation, and would have maintained files, handled complaints, and established procedures for appeal of its decisions.

GOVERNOR'S
REASON
FOR VETO:

Although some regulation of medical physicists may be appropriate, creation of a new, separate state agency for this purpose is not warranted. Oversight of medical physicists should be assumed by the Texas Department of Health or the Texas State Board of Medical Examiners.

RESPONSE:

"The Governor's Office never expressed any of these concerns to me," said Rep. Brad Wright, the author of HB 1967. "Neither the Department of Health nor the Board of Medical Examiners expressed an interest in overseeing this profession. The procedure created under the bill would have been self-funded and wouldn't have involved the expenditure of any additional state funds. The bill would have involved the state in regulating this profession, which can present a major risk to the public if medical physicists do not dispense their duties in an appropriate manner. It is essential that there be some standard to assure that the appropriate level of professionalism is maintained," said Rep. Wright.

NOTES:

The House Research Organization digest of HB 1967 appeared in the May 10, 1989 Daily Floor Report.